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EDITORS

DIVINE ACTION AND NATURAL SELECTION

SCIENCE, FAITH AND EVOLUTION

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The Origin and Creation of Life

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1. Introduction

When living things on Earth are examined, a manifest creation is to be observed. Every species is furnished with extremely complex features that enable it to play its role in the overall ecosystem to the best of its ability. Since life is so very organized, it certainly must have a Creator. The theory of evolution that was advanced in the 19th century denies this increasingly evident fact of creation. Charles Darwin's theory holds that the species on Earth were not created by God, but came into being in stages as a result of processes governed entirely by happenstance.

Darwin argued that all species are descended from a common ancestor by means of small incremental changes over long eons of time. But actually Darwin was aware of a great many facts that invalidated his theory. He admitted these in his book in a chapter entitled "Difficulties on Theory" and hoped that these stumbling blocks would be overcome by new scientific discoveries. But in fact, advances in science would refute Darwin's claims one by one. Darwin proposed that all species evolved successively from a common ancestor. But how did that first living thing come into being?

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the cell to have come into being by chance, and that therefore, it must definitely have been "created."

One of the basic reasons why the theory of evolution cannot explain how the cell came into existence is its "**irreducible complexity**." A living cell maintains itself with the harmonious co-operation of many organelles. If only one of these organelles fails to function, the cell cannot remain alive. Thus, the first cell on Earth was necessarily a complete one that had to possess all the required organelles and ther attendant functions. This definitely means that this cell must have been created.

3. The Problem of the Origin of Proteins

So much for the cell, but evolution fails even to account for its building blocks of a cell. Under natural conditions, the formation of just one single protein out of the thousands of complex protein molecules composing the cell is impossible.

Twenty different types of amino acids found in nature are used in protein structure. Depending on the number used and their order, an infinite number of proteins can actually be made from only these 20 different amino acids. If you compare any protein to a chain, amino acids are the links in that chain. The number of amino acids in different protein types within living things is anywhere between 100 and 3,000. Removing, adding, or changing the order of just one amino acid in the chain randomly would render the entire protein completely useless, and in fact harmful. Furthermore, as will be discussed shortly, Darwin's theory cannot even substantiate the claim of the accidental formation of amino acids.

Robert Shapiro, a professor of chemistry at New York University and a DNA expert, calculated the probablity of the coincidental formation of the 2,000 types of proteins found in a single bacterium. (There are 200,000 different types of proteins in a human cell.) The number that he determined was expressed by 1 over $10^{40,000}$ (Shapiro, 1986, p. 127)—or in other words, a figured expressed by the number 1 followed by 40,000 zeros. Chandra Wickramasinghe, a professor of applied mathematics and astronomy from University College Cardiff, Wales, comments:

> "The likelihood of the spontaneous formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with 40,000 noughts [zeroes] after it … **It is big enough to burry Darwin and the whole theory of evolution.** There was no primeval soup, neither on this planet nor on any other, and if the beginnings of life were not random, they must therefore have been **the product of purposeful intelligence**" (Hoyle, Wickramasinghe, 1984, p. 148) (*emphasis added*).

Sir Fred Hoyle comments on these implausible numbers:

> "Indeed, such a theory (that life was assembled by an intelligence) is so obvious that one wonders why it is not widely accepted as being self-evident. The reasons are psychological rather than scientific" (Hoyle, Wickramasinghe, 1984, p. 130).

In fact, many other evolutionists acknowledge this situation. For example, Harold F. Blum, a prominent evolutionist scientist, states that "The spontaneous formation of a polypeptide of the size of the smallest known proteins seems beyond all probablity." (Blum, 1968, p. 158).

Evolutionists claim that molecular evolution took place over a very long period of time and that this duration made the impossible possible. Nevertheless, no matter how long the given period may be, it is not possible for amino acids to form proteins by chance. William Stokes, an American geologist, admits as much in his book *Essentials of Earth History*, writing that the probablity is so small "that it would not occur during billions of years on billions of planets, each covered by a blanket of concentrated watery solution of the necessary amino acids." (Stokes, 1942, p. 186) So what does all this mean? Perry Reeves, a professor of chemistry, answers the question:

> "When one examines the vast number of possible structures that could result from a simple random combination of amino acids in an evaporating primordial pond, **it is mind-boggling to believe that life could have originated in this way]**. It is more plausible that a Great Builder with a master plan would be required for such a task" (Thomas, 1988, pp. 81-82) (*emphasis added*).

4. Homochirality: The Problem of Left-Handed Proteins

Let us now examine in detail why the evolutionist scenario regarding the formation of proteins is impossible. Even the correct sequence of the right amino acids is still not enough for the formation of a functioning protein molecule. In addition to these requirements, each of the 20 different types of amino acids present in the composition of proteins must be left-handed. Biomolecules are "chiral" or handed, in other words there are two different types of amino acids—as of all organic molecules—called "left-handed" and "right-handed." The difference between them is the mirror-symmetry between their three-dimensional structures, which is similar to that of a person's right and left hands.

Amino acids of either of these two types can easily bond with one another. But research has revealed the one astonishing fact that all the proteins in plants and animals on this Earth, from the simplest organism to the most complex, are composed of left-handed amino acids, that is to say they are "homochiral."

If even a single right-handed amino acid becomes attached to the structure of a protein, that protein is rendered useless. Surprisingly, in a series of experiments, bacteria that were exposed to right-handed amino acids immediately destroyed them. In some cases, they went on to produce usable left-handed amino acids from the fractured components.

The Britannica Science Encyclopaedia, which is an outspoken defender of evolution, states that the amino acids of all the living organisms on Earth, and the building blocks of complex polymers such as proteins, have the same left-handed asymmetry. It adds that this is tantamount to tossing a coin a million times and always getting heads. The same encyclopedia states that it is impossible to understand why molecules become left-handed or right-handed, and that this choice is fascinatingly related to the origin of life on Earth (*Britannica*, p. 415).

If a coin always turns up heads when tossed a million times, is it more logical to attribute that to chance, or else to accept that there is conscious intervention going on? The answer should be obvious. However, obvious though it may be, evolutionists still take refuge in coincidence, simply because they do not want to accept the existence of "conscious intervention." In conclusion, the probabilities we have examined prove beyond a doubt that the origin of life cannot be

explained by chance. If we attempt to calculate the probablity of an average-sized protein consisting of 500 amino acids being selected from left-handed amino acids only, we come up with a probablity of 1 in 2^{500}, or 1 in 10^{150}.

5. The Indispensability of the Peptide Link

The difficulties that the theory of evolution cannot overcome in regard to the development of a single protein are not limited to those examined so far. It's not enough for amino acids to be arranged in the correct numbers, sequence, and required three-dimensional structures. The formation of a protein also requires that amino acid molecules with more than one arm be linked to each other only in certain ways. Such a "way" is called a "**peptide bond**." Amino acids can form different bonds with each other; but proteins are made up of those—and only those—amino acids that are joined by peptide bonds.

Research has shown that amino acids combining at random will combine with a peptide bond only 50 percent of the time. The rest of the time, different bonds that are not found in proteins are formed. To function properly, each amino acid making up a protein must be joined to others with a peptide bond only, in the same way that it must be selected only from among left-handed forms.

The probablity of this happening is the same as the probablity of each protein's being left-handed. That is, when we consider any protein made up of 500 amino acids, the probablity of all amino acids combining among themselves with peptide bonds only is 1 in 2^{499}, or 1 in 10^{150}.

6. Zero Probability

If we add together the three probabilities for a protein molecule of 500 amino acids (all laid out correctly in the right sequence, all being left-handed, and all joined by peptide links), then we come face to face with the astronomical figure of **1 in 10^{950}**. ($1/10^{650}$ times $1/10^{150}$ times $1/10^{150}$ = $1/10^{950}$ = one chance in $1/10^{950}$). This is a probability only on paper. Practically speaking, there is zero chance of its actually happening. A probability smaller than 1 in 10^{50} is, in mathematics, statistically considered to have a "zero" probability of occurring (Yahya, 2004, pp. 127-129). There are 3 basic conditions for the formation of a useful protein:

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